

HABS MI-213-B

EAST BLOCK HOUSE  
FORT MACKINAC, MICH

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for drawings see:  
HABS MI-213 sheets 8, 9, 10

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EAST BLOCK HOUSE OF FORT MACKINAC  
Mackinac Island, Mackinac County  
Michigan

OWNER: State of Michigan.

CUSTODIAN: Mackinac Island State Park Commission - Mr. Manfred  
Burleigh, Chairman.

DATE OF ERECTION: 1798 to 1800

ARCHITECT: Unknown

BUILDERS: American artisans and soldiers attached to Fort Mackinac.

PRESENT CONDITION: Fair.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION: Limestone for the basement and first  
story walls and squared 6 x 6 timbers above. Hewn  
timbers supporting floors and roof.

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS: No original drawings have been found. Ref-  
erences to the Block House are contained in the Inspec-  
tion Records at the War Department.

ADDITIONAL DATA: The East Block House was built by the Americans  
after their occupation of the Fort in 1796. A letter  
from Uriah Tracy to the Secretary of War, dated Dec-  
ember 20, 1800, shows it to have been completed at  
that date.

There are fireplaces in the basement and first story  
which were used to heat the building in the event of  
its being used as a quarters. After the old stone  
powder magazine was demolished, the basement was used  
as a munition storeroom. At that time a vent hole was  
cut through the outside wall which is still in evidence.

The stone work was repaired by the National Park Serv-  
ice during 1934 and is now in very good condition.

The above data was taken from a report compiled by the writer on  
the history of Fort Mackinac. It was prepared for the National  
Park Service during 1934 and entailed months of careful research.

(Signed) "Warren L. Rindge"  
District Officer - November 14, 1936.

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District Officer - May 3, 1937.